

Fight on Rent Laws Started By Landlords

Suit Begun to Compel Issuance of Warrant Against Tenant as Realty Board Plans Sweeping Test

Building Combine Denied

Mann Says Dealers in Material Charge Labor Inefficiency Causes Delay

First of a multitude of suits which are expected to develop out of the new rent laws were begun yesterday against Brooklyn tenants.

The Ryan Realty Company applied to Supreme Court Justice Callaghan for an order to show cause why a writ of mandamus should not be issued compelling William R. Forgan, chief clerk of the 6th District Municipal Court,

to issue a dispossession warrant against Joseph Reines, 1918 Avenue H, Brooklyn, a tenant of the company.

In September a warrant was issued against Reines, but subsequently he was given until October 1 to move. Meantime he took refuge under the new rent laws.

Application also was made in the Supreme Court for an order to compel twenty-two tenants of 611 Ocean Avenue to give bond to cover the rental that may be fixed later by a court. Lovell & Weisch Realty Company alleges that they effected a compromise for a 25 per cent increase in rent. The tenants contend the new laws are trying to compel the firm to prove the increase justifiable. The court reserved decision on the application.

General Attack on Laws

While these cases were locked upon as being tests of the new laws, the Real Estate Board yesterday announced that it is completing its plans for a general attack on all the rent laws which are retroactive in their nature. The board contends that the Legislature had no constitutional power to declare invalid leases made between April and September. Alexander McNulty, counsel for the board, said that test suits probably would be filed before the end of the week.

Justice Aaron J. Levy, president of the Board of Municipal Court Justices, has called a meeting for 4:30 o'clock this afternoon to determine on rules of procedure for cases brought under the new laws.

Arthur J. W. Hilly, chairman of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, said:

"All of the 100,000 cases of eviction which were nullified only a few days before October 1 are each a possible cause of litigation. Undoubtedly many of the landlords were belligerent before the laws were passed, and we changed their attitude by now, and we do not believe that anywhere near 100,000 cases will go into court."

Mr. Hilly said he just discovered tenants in so-called apartment hotels, which have 125 rooms or less, and are entitled to the privileges of the new laws.

Frank Mann, Tenement House Commissioner, said that a statement given out by his office last week declaring that no combination of a building material dealers' had been found, reflected the views of building material dealers. "I called the dealers to a conference," Mr. Mann. Their opinion was that the high prices of building materials was regulated solely by the law of supply and demand. They declared that labor was 25 per cent inefficient as compared with pre-war standards. "I did not express my personal view."

European Road's Bonds On Sale Here First Time

French Line Seeks to Raise Funds on Yield of About 6.35 Per Cent

For the first time in history a European railroad is selling its securities in the American market. Announcement was made here yesterday of the completion of negotiations between a banking group consisting of A. Iselin & Co., Hemphill, Noyes & Co., and Guise Warrill & Co., of New York and the Midi Railroad Company (Compagnie des Chemins de Fer du Midi) of France which involves the sale of 50,000,000 francs, or approximately \$3,250,000 on the basis of current exchange rates of 6 per cent bonds of the road. The securities, which are in the form of coupon bearing bonds in denominations of 1,000 francs, will be offered this week on the basis of \$45 per 1,000 francs, yielding the December interest coupon, so yield about 6.35 per cent at the present rate of exchange.

Proceeds of the sale of the bonds, it is announced on the part of the bankers and the company, will be used in this country for the purchase of equipment, presumably locomotives. The bonds are redeemable at par not later than 1960 and principal and interest are payable at the office of A. Iselin & Co., syndicate managers, in francs by draft on the Bank of France without deduction for any French taxes, present or future, if held by non-residents of France.

Boston Official Taken in Raid

BOSTON, Oct. 4.—City Councillor James A. (Jerry) Watson was arrested with seven other men Sunday morning in a raid on the Avon Club, a social organization in Roxbury. All were arraigned in the Roxbury Court today. Watson and two of the men were charged with being present at a card game on Sunday. The other five were charged with gaming on Sunday. Each entered a plea of nolo, which the court accepted and ordered the complaints filed.

Edison Co. of Brooklyn and Others Indicted

Profiteering and Hoarding Coal Charges Against Corporation; Officials and Other Firms Accused

Allege P. S. C. Was Duped

Inflated Price of Fuel Alleged To Be Basis of Rate Raise; 'Commissions' Were Paid

The Brooklyn Edison Company, Inc., was indicted yesterday by the Federal Grand Jury for profiteering and for hoarding coal, and was charged with conspiracy to violate the Lever act.

Others indicted jointly with the Edison Company on charges of violating the Lever act are the Adelpia Coal Company, Inc., the B. J. Lynch Coal Company, Inc., Walter F. Wells, vice-president and general manager of the Brooklyn Edison Company, and Harry P. Wood, its operating engineer in charge of all coal transactions.

The evidence on which the grand jury returned the indictments to Judge A. N. Hand in the United States District Court was submitted by William McMurtrie Speers, special assistant attorney general.

It is charged that the Brooklyn Edison Company paid unnecessarily high prices for its coal and by reporting to the Public Service Commission that because of these high prices it was necessary to increase rates for electric light and power, gained from the Public Service Commission, the right to charge more for its service.

Charge Contracts Double Need

It is said that the Brooklyn Edison Company required 1,000 tons of coal a day. The hoarding indictment charges that in July the company had arranged for or had contracts for more than double its coal requirements for eleven months.

"It was the duty of the Brooklyn Edison Company," the indictment says, "to procure coal required for the conduct of its business as cheaply as possible and to truthfully report to the Public Service Commission, as its expenditures in coal, only such amounts as it has actually and of necessity disbursed, and to what extent it had paid more for coal than was essential."

It is charged that the Brooklyn Edison Company bought coal from the Adelpia Coal Company and from other coal companies who paid commissions to the Adelpia Coal Company. These commissions are said to have been largely in excess of the fair and reasonable value of any services rendered by the Adelpia Coal Company, and in such instances the Adelpia Coal Company would give no services to the Brooklyn Edison Company.

The Adelpia Coal Company, according to the indictment, split the commission with Harry P. Wood and other persons whose names are unknown.

\$19,322 Paid in Four Months

The indictment describes certain money payments by the Brooklyn Edison Company to the Adelpia Coal Company. It says that between December 8, 1919, and April 5, 1920, the Adelpia Coal Company deposited to its credit in the Liberty National Bank checks drawn by the Brooklyn Edison Company for \$19,322.

Mr. Wood is alleged to have visited the offices of the Adelpia Coal Company on several occasions and to have received \$1,200 on November 29, 1919. On December 17, 1919, the Adelpia Coal Company is said to have drawn a check for \$15,000 in favor of the Chaffee Coal Company and on May 26, 1920, a check for \$1,394 in favor of Weston Dodson & Co.

The Adelpia Coal Company is not named as a defendant in the profiteering charge, but appears in connection with the other defendants. The indictment charges that the Lynch Coal Company entered into contracts for the purchase of coal in Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia and obtained priority transportation permits through the Brooklyn Edison Company, the latter being a public utility. It is alleged that the coal on reaching New York was not delivered to the Brooklyn Edison Company, but used

and sold by the Lynch Company for its own account.

The Brooklyn Edison Company is specifically charged with hoarding 50,000 tons of coal and having contracted for an additional 50,000 tons with W. H. Bradford & Co.

Sloan Defends Company's Action

Matthew S. Sloan, president of the Brooklyn Edison Company, in a statement issued last night, said:

"Our company learns for the first time that it may be charged with the Lever act for a public utility company to have on hand enough coal to take care of its needs. We have no excuses to make and are proud of our ability to obtain enough coal to take care of our daily requirements and to build up an adequate reserve to assure the people of Brooklyn of a constant and uninterrupted supply of electricity."

The statement says that no coal had been received from the Adelpia Coal Company except under a charter dated in 1914, and at a price below the market price for coal of a similar grade at the time.

"Payments by the Edison Company to the Adelpia company, mentioned in the indictment, were for coal delivered and for no other purpose," Mr. Sloan declares.

"Our company has bought coal at competitive market prices, and we have not paid higher prices for coal than we were forced to pay because of market conditions."

Mr. Sloan asserts that an investigation convinces him that Walter F. Wells, vice-president and general manager, is blameless.

Wells says he welcomes the opportunity to "demonstrate the propriety" of his official acts.

"I know nothing about the transaction with respect to which I am accused, except that in my service as vice-president of the company I know that coal was purchased from the Adelpia Coal Company and that the prices were less than similar coal cost us from other sources."

Price Drop Is in Full Swing, Bankers Are Told

Meat Packers' Head Says Gradation of Downward Trend Will Halt Economic Tragedy

BOSTON, Oct. 4.—The prices of readjustment in American business with a downward revision of prices is "in full motion," according to Thomas E. Wilson, president of the Institute of American Meat Packers, in an address before the Investment Bankers' Association of America here today.

Mr. Wilson took an affirmative position on the question, "Does American industry be contracted toward normal dimensions without tragic economic results?"

"The pressing necessity of the present," he said, "is to maintain a courageous and optimistic morale."

"The manufacture of luxuries is being curtailed. The spending fever is abating. Commodity prices are falling and further deflation seems to be in progress. Favorable crop reports come from every section. There is great encouragement to be drawn from the fact that there has been no substantial decrease in bank deposits during the last few months. Individual savings accounts show marked improvement."

Bandit Rifles Victim Even of Postage Stamps

WOODBURNE, N. Y., Oct. 4.—State troopers rode through here today to search the countryside for a highwayman with whom thieft and thoroughness are the watchwords.

He held up P. R. Grant about two miles outside the village last night and ordered him to "shell out." Mr. Grant, with an eye on the revolver that concealed his middle, shelled with alacrity. He handed over \$6 and his watch, saying that was all he had.

The highwayman searched him, however, and in a waistcoat pocket discovered two postage stamps which were stuck together and added them to his plunder with the remark, "I can steam these apart and use them."

Strike Threat Called Bluff

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4.—British steamship owners regard the threat of a general coal strike in England as a bluff, according to a report to the Department of Commerce today from Consul General W. S. Stanley at London.

Register to-day!
Polls open from 5 p. m. to 10:30 p. m.
If you don't register you cannot vote!

Judge Instructs Jurors to Purge Nassau of Vice

Scudder Asks Stern Action Against Those Responsible for Gaming Conditions That Have Stained County

Hints at Men Higher Up

John Doe Inquiry Has Been Successful Beyond Our Fondest Hopes, He Says

The Nassau County Grand Jury, which convened in the Mineola, L. I., courthouse yesterday, was charged by Supreme Court Justice Townsend Scudder with the duty of purging the county of all forms of vice; to make it a "model community under a model government," and take stern action against those guilty of permitting the gaming conditions that have been revealed by the John Doe investigation conducted during the past six months.

Reviewing the investigation, Judge Scudder told the jurors that "two inferences might be drawn; that the system of lookouts and ear-to-the-ground processes were highly perfected; that they received special favors which in some way originated with or emanated from some person or persons in or connected with our county government."

"How Did They Do It?"

He told them that public opinion demands that they investigate this phase and ascertain the truth. He said that the evidence gathered in the John Doe proceedings would be placed before them as rapidly as possible. These proceedings, he said, had been "successful even beyond our fondest hopes. Our successes, however, have had only to do with the punishment of professional gamblers."

"The question still remains unanswered: 'How did they do it?' How comes it that this nefarious business was successfully conducted with little molestation for so many years? Why, until now, has there been no prosecution of these suspected gamblers who have pleaded guilty? What is the reason of the strange coincidence, so often repeated as to seem almost a habit, that a gambling house would close up, and assume the aspect of an innocent, orderly establishment just prior to a raid by the District Attorney and resume its gambling activities immediately thereafter?"

Edwin M. Townsend, of Oyster Bay, a former partner of Justice Scudder's brother Loren, was chosen foreman of the jury. Immediately after Justice

Scudder had charged the jury counsel for William H. Busted, David Gideon and John Shaughnessy, three gamblers awaiting sentence, asked for and obtained a postponement of sentence for three weeks. The three men will be sentenced by Justice Scudder on October 18.

Takes Up Gambling Cases

Although the grand jury immediately went to work on the gambling cases, Justice Scudder continued the John Doe hearings with District Attorney Charles R. Weeks. A number of witnesses were called, and it is understood that they testified to conditions existing at Long Beach, L. I., prior to the investigation.

Thief Melts Relic of Maine

Parts of Shield of Old Battleship Stolen for Junk

BANGOR, Me., Oct. 4.—Parts of the shield of the old battleship Maine, given to this city after the warship was raised from the bottom of Havana Harbor, have been stolen and melted for junk at a local foundry, it was discovered today. About forty pounds of metal, chipped from the scroll work of the shield, had been put through the melting pot before the theft was learned. The police are searching for a city employee, who has disappeared. The relic of the Maine had been in storage awaiting decision as to the most fitting place for its display.

Grand Jury May Take Up Forest Hills Rent Fight

District Attorney Denis O'Leary of Queens County said yesterday that he might ask the grand jury to investigate the situation at the Gardens apartments in Forest Hills, where sixteen tenants have entrenched themselves against the efforts of Guyon C. L. Earle, the manager, to get them out or to get more rent.

Mr. O'Leary said that two of his assistants and a detective who had reported to him and he would go over their reports at once.

"The matter certainly will go to the grand jury," he said, "if anything has been done that appears to be contrary to the law."

Lecoite to Visit U. S.

PARIS, Oct. 4.—Sadi Lecoite, the French aviator who on September 28 was winner of the James Gordon Bennett airplane race at Etampes, will soon visit the United States, where he will engage in airplane races against American pilots, says The Excelsior.

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